TL1050

An open letter to the government of Canada

MASSACRE IN EAST TIMOR

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, AT A PEACEFUL PRO-INDEPENDENCE procession in East Timor, Indonesian soldiers opened fire on an unarmed crowd, killing over 200 women, men and children.

The massacre was only the latest in a long string of atrocities committed by the Indonesian army since it invaded the tiny country of East Timor in 1975. More than 200,000 people — a third of the East Timorese population — have been killed since, according to Amnesty International and the Catholic Church. Despite repeated United Nations resolutions, Indonesia has refused to let the East Timorese decide their own future.

The government of Canada has supported Indonesia with aid, trade, and even military equipment. After the November 12 massacre, the Canadian government made its first-ever statement of concern for human rights in East Timor, and asked that those responsible for the massacre be punished.

In the past year, the suffering of the East Timorese has increased. Soldiers who opened fire have been jailed for short periods, while the generals who bear ultimate responsibility have gone unpunished. East Timorese survivors of the massacre, meanwhile, have been charged with subversion and "expressing hostility." Their sentences range up to life imprisonment.

The government of Canada says it is satisfied with the response of the Indonesian government.

PHOTO: ELAINE BRIERE DESIGN: LEN SEEDS

We urge the Canadian government to:

- ***Impose a ban*** on weapon sales to Indonesia, and support a general ban by all countries on weapon sales to Indonesia.
- ***Work for peace talks*** without preconditions between Indonesia and the East Timorese resistance.
- ***Speak up for the rights*** of the East Timorese, a people living under a forgotten genocide.

This open letter is a joint project of the East Timor Alert Network and the Canadian Peace Alliance.

ACT for Disarmament • Anglican Church • Association of United Ukrainian Canadians • Calgary Disarmament Coalition • Canada Asia Working Group • Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace • Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) • Canadian Peace Alliance • Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade • COOP Radio • Cultural Survival Canada • Greenpeace Canada Staff • INTER PARES • Int'l Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development • McMaster Peace Camp Club • Mennonite Conf. of E. Canada (Peace, Justice Ctte) • Necessary Illusions • Nuclear Free North • Ontario Public Interest Research Group (Carleton, Toronto) • Ottawa Disarmament Coalition • Our Lady's Missionaries • Portuguese Canadian Democratic Association • Project Ploughshares • La Quena Coffee House • Vancouver and Gastown Raging Grannies • Simon Fraser Univer. PIRG • Southeast Asia Working Group • South Pacific People's Foundation • Student Christian Movement (U. of T.) • Toronto Disarmament Network • United Church • University College Lit. • Voice of Women (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario) • Workers' Benevolent Assoc. of Canada • World Council of Indigenous People • Mike Akey • Rev. Tom Anthony • Chris Axworthy, MP • Maude Barlow • Dawn Black, MP • Bill Blaikie, MP • Mordechai Briemberg • John Broderick • David Cadman • Iona Campagnolo • June Callwood • Orvall Chapman • Noam Chomsky • Bruce Cockburn • Marjorie Cohen • Ryder Cooey • Dr. Bill Courtenay • Gary Crystal • Claire Culhane • Ron Dart • Bishop Remi de Roo • Joseph and Lorna Diggle • Val Embree • Timothy Findley • Ursula M. Franklin • Sue Fraser • Ray Funk, MP • Beryl Gaffney, MP • Plamen Gantchev • Steve Goldberg • Penny Goldsmith • Judy Harper • Dan Heap, MP • Bill Horne • Lynn Hunter, MP • Mobina Jaffer • Terrence Keenlyside • Des Kennedy • David Kilgour, MP • Charles King • Nancy Knickerbocker • Steven Langdon, MP • Bill Levant • Stephen Lewis • Howard McCurdy, MP • Ian MacKenzie • Dr. Gabor Mate • Michael McGonigle • David McMurran • Margaret Morgan • Gabriella Moro • Toni Onley • Marisa Orth-Pallavicini • Wil Osley • Tony Palma • Marg Panton • Ron Peterson • Louise Phillips • Lynne Pinkerton • John Polanyi • Duncan Raeside • Raffi • Klaus Reichoff • Karen Ridd • Svend Robinson, MP • Clayton Ruby • Bob Russel • Rick Salutin • Valerie Sherriff • Bishop John M. Sherlock • Christine Stewart, MP • Don Stuart • Margaret Sumadh • David Suzuki • Erik Svend Erikson • Jamie Swift • Simin Tabrizi • Ann Thompson • Penny Tinlby • Norman Webster • Wendy Wickwire • Nettie Wild • Jery Zaslove • Barrie Zwicker • & others

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☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card # _____ Expiry __/__ Signature _____

☐ Please send me more information on East Timor and how to get involved.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Please write to External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall (House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6) in support of East Timor.

Please return to: